

The publishers of the Herald desire to sincerely thank their thousands of patrons for their generous support during the closing year. Dear friends we hope God's richest blessings may be the lot of every one of you.

Every farmer his wife, daughter and son should read the Farm Journal; during January we will send this splendid monthly five years and the Herald one year for only a dollar.

What right has the Republican state committee to order a primary election for the Democratic party? That is exactly what has been done. Sanders orders Barton to make the call, as he could not fool anybody with one sent out in his own name. But then, no matter—Barton will fool very few with his doodle-bug primary.

THE LIGHT PLANT LEASE

The Proposition

To the Honorable Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Cookeville, Tennessee:

In view of the fact that the city water and light plant is running behind some \$1,200 or \$1,500 per year, and the further fact that it is the opinion of a great many of the tax payers, your Recorder, I am informed, being one of them, that without the expenditure of a great amount of money no relief can be had, I desire to make you the following proposition:

If you will turn over to the company that I represent your present water and light plant, we will agree to put same in proper order to meet the requirements of the city of Cookeville and its future growth, will keep the plant in good order, and furnish the city free of charge 60, 100 Watt Tungsten lights of the most improved type for street purposes, keep up said lights, furnish the necessary repairs and renewals, observing of course the regular moonlight schedule in the operation of same. For the use of the water plant will furnish the city water for fire purposes from any of the street plugs now installed; at any other point whenever the service may be extended provided the city will install the necessary attachments and guarantee a pressure of not less than 50 pounds throughout the lease.

When the plants are turned over to us they should be appraised by a com-

petent engineer and at the termination of the lease, which should be for 20 years, we will turn back the plants upon the same kind of appraisal, and if it is worth more, the city will pay for the difference; if less, we will pay the city the difference, and give a good and solvent bond to carry out our part of the agreement.

We agree to extend water main and leads, furnish electric lights on any or all streets of this city where such extensions are justified by the patronage to be had, will furnish sufficient water and a higher grade of current to meet all requirements, and the city will not be out one penny for street lighting purposes up to and including 60 lights, or water for fire purposes, whenever needed. It must also be understood and agreed that the property so leased, and extended, is not to be taxed by the city. The rates for electric lights will not exceed the present city schedule. The rates for water will not exceed \$1.00 per month for private residence use; \$1.25 where closet or bath is connected, or 50cts. per 1,000 gallons on meter basis. This proposition is made with the understanding that we furnish both day and night current.

Yours truly, **Jas. N. Cox.**

Amendments. 1st. Whenever the city needs more than 60 lights, we agree to furnish and maintain same whenever required at \$2.50 per month each.

2nd. If the city prefers the operation of street lights only until 11:00 o'clock at night as has been the custom in the past, we will furnish 100 instead of 60 and place them wherever directed.

Explanation

In explanation of the above proposition permit me to say that the power for operating the electric light plant and doing the pumping for the water system, is to come from Sparta under a contract with the A. & T. Power Company, who have one of the best equipped electric plants in the state of Tennessee, and are in position to furnish a minimum day and night current of 350 horse power. They agree to furnish us a maximum amount of 12,000 K. W. at the corporate limits of Sparta at 2-cents per K. W., or at the corporate limits of Cookeville at 5cts. per K. W.

The power line and equipment will cost about \$10,000, therefore, we can well afford to build a line for the difference in price. We figure that it will cost not less than \$10,000, to install a reliable water plant, so as to be able to furnish the citizens of Cookeville with a reliable pressure throughout the year.

Our purpose is to organize a company of Cookeville citizens with a capital stock of \$20,000, to finance the proposition, but if we are unable to secure the required amount, or any portion of it, the A. & T. Power Company will put up the necessary money to make it a certainty, provided a lease of the city property is granted.

A number of Cookeville citizens have expressed themselves as desiring some of the stock, and I believe that we can finance a deal with our own money, however, this is a matter that is secondary to the feature of relieving the city of a great burden, and at the same time secure electric and water plant that is in keeping with the requirements of a city of this size, and a provision for its extension and improvements in accordance with the city's growth.

Our present water and light facilities are retarding the growth of the town and are a great burden on our people not so much on account of extravagance and mismanagement, but more on account of the fact that electricity furnished by steam, and plants

is extra expensive, that the continual pumping by steam, and the necessity of keeping up a high pressure throughout the day is costly, that our wells have proven a failure and the good citizens who are serving without pay as Aldermen cannot afford to neglect their business, and give the plant the attention required to make them successful even if it were possible.

The operation of the two plants is costing the people from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year over and above all receipts and will cost more each year as time goes on, on account of the fact that the poles and fixtures are getting old and giving away, the machinery is continually wearing, and will have to be renewed, and everything that goes into the business, as well as salaries and wages are steadily advancing. The bonds issued for the original cost of the plant amounts to \$25,000 and are drawing 6 per cent. interest, making a yearly outlay of \$1,500. This added to the yearly loss makes the enormous increase in taxes of almost \$3,000 per year.

What do you get for it.

A water main that is restricted to one street and around the square, only one branch line for commercial purpose and only \$18 or \$20 in revenue from a \$10,000 investment. The service is so inadequate and unreliable that our own people, hundreds of whom would be glad to have water facilities in their homes, do without or arrange for private system at considerable expense rather than put up their money for a connection with such a plant, but this is not the worst of it. The insurance companies believing that we have a water system adequate to protect against fires have reduced our rates but when they find out the true condition, what will be the result? Rates will be doubled, and other great sums will be added to the already over taxed citizens.

THE REMEDY AND WHAT YOU GET.

Lease the plant to this company that is amply able to put in a system in keeping with those in other cities the size of Cookeville, and who can take care of improvements and extensions without additional taxes or bond issue on the people.

Save that \$1,200 or \$1,500 annual loss and get in exchange for your plant 60 street lights that will burn all night every night in the year, when the moon is not actually shining, instead of 40 odd uncertain lights that burn only until 11 o'clock, and a water plant covering the town that will meet the requirements of our people and doubtless reduce our insurance rates rather than increase them. Think of it, double the facilities at an actual saving of over \$100 per month. The 60 street lights furnished and maintained are cheap at \$2.50 per month each and our citizens get the benefit in addition to this, of an all night and day current that they can rely upon for service every hour in the year. The street lights will be placed wherever the city authorities direct. None of the small incandescent lights now on the streets need be done away with but can be replaced by a more modern and efficient burner and the old unreliable arc lights will be replaced with an improved light of the same character. The city will have to begin with a greater number of street lights and a many times better system than they have ever had before. The interest on your bonds is \$125 every month. If this trade goes through, you get \$150 worth of lights, all the water you need for fire purposes and an improved system that will be a credit to any town. As the town grows, and finds need of more street

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